

Application Serial No. 09/986,241

In the Specification

On page 13, line 6, insert —FIG. 8 shows a matrix representation of a set of  
puncture matrices for IR combining.—

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On page 14, amend the paragraph beginning at line 15 as follows:

FIG. 11 shows a flow chart representing a method of block puncturing for turbo code based incremental redundancy, in accordance with the present invention. A first step of the method is coding 1200, such as turbo coding, an input data stream into systematic bits and parity bits. A next step is loading 1202 loading the systematic bits and parity bits into respective systematic and parity block interleavers in a column-wise manner, as described previously. A next step is selecting 1204 a predetermined redundancy. This step follows the redundancy rules previously described, and preferably utilizes the specific redundancy version outlined above. A next step is outputting 1206 data from the block interleavers in a row-wise manner in accordance with the selected redundancy. Preferably, a outputting step includes mapping the bits from the systematic and parity block into a symbol mapping array wherein the systematic bits are mapped into the upper rows of the array and the parity bits are mapped into the lower rows of the array. This is followed by a step of selecting 1208 (not shown) the final code rate dependant upon the available symbol memory, as defined by Eq. 1.